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This <u>application</u> is a Continuation-in-Part of Serial No. 09/109,784 filed July 2, ◆•

1998 <u>and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,193,520,</u> which is a Continuation-in-Part of Serial ◆•

No. 08/642,560 filed May 3, 1996 <u>and issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,775,995,</u> which is ◆•

a Divisional of Serial No. 08/555,400 filed November 9, 1995 <u>and issued as U.S. Patent</u> ◆•

<u>No. 5,735,744,</u> which is a Continuation-in-Part of Serial No. 08/232,862 filed April [[24]] ◆•

<u>25,</u> 1994 <u>and issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,489,103, which claims priority from Japanese</u> ◆•

<u>Patent Application 5-108303 filed May 10, 1993</u>. ◆•

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1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication system for controlling use of program related element in a user system including a memory, processor and input devices for storing the program related element and for executing a program or operating on data associated with the program related element and wherein a program related element includes at least one of a program, data or a combination of a program and data, the communication system comprising:

in a user system,

~~an access controller~~ a memory for ~~generating requests for access to the program related element and for controlling access to the program related element, and~~

~~in a host facility,~~

~~a memory for storing~~

~~an authorization key controlling access by the user system to the program related element, and~~

~~an associated access definition including~~

storing an access definition including a period of use definition defining a period in which the user system may access the program related element, and

an access controller for generating requests for access to the program related element and for controlling access to the program related element, wherein

the ~~host facility being~~ access controller is responsive to the period of use definition for generating a request for access to the program related element ~~[[and]]~~ only during a period defined by the period of use definition,

in a host facility,

a memory for storing

an authorization key controlling access by the user system to the program related element,

the host facility being responsive to a request for access to the program related element ~~associated access definition~~ for communicating the authorization key to ~~and at least parts of the associated access definition to the user system when requirements of the associated access definition are met~~ the user system, and

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the access controller being responsive to the authorization key ~~and the parts of the associated use definition~~ for allowing the user system access to the program related element in conformance with the parts of the associated use definition.

    2. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 1 wherein:

        the program related element is resident in the user system.

    3. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 1 wherein:

        the program related element is loaded into the user system from a host system.

    4. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 1 wherein:

        the program related element is transmitted into the user system from a second user system.

    5. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 1 wherein:

        the program related element is a program,

        the authorization key is an unlocking key, and

        the access controller is responsive to the unlocking key for permitting access to the program related element.

    6. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 1 wherein:

        the authorization key is a decryption key,

        the program related element is encrypted, and

        the access controller include a decryption mechanism responsive to the decryption key to decrypt the program related element to provide the decrypted program related element to the user system.

    7. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 6 wherein:

        the program related element is generated and encrypted in a second user system,

        the program related element is transmitted to the user system, and

        an authorization key and associated access definition corresponding to the program related element is generated and stored in the host facility in association with the generation and encryption of the program related element.

    8. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 1 wherein:

        the access definition includes at least one of a start date/time and an end date/time defining a period in which access to the program related element is permitted.

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9. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 1 wherein:

the access definition includes at least one user period defining at least one corresponding access period during which the user system may access the program related element and wherein the access controller is responsive to an access period for terminating access to the program related element at the expiration of the access period.

10. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 1 wherein:

the access definition includes conditions to be satisfied before the user system may access the program related element.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling use of program related element in a user system including a memory, processor and input devices for storing the program related element and for executing a program or operating on data associated with the program related element and wherein a program related element includes at least one of a program, data or a combination of a program and data, the method comprising the steps of:

in a host facility,

storing an authorization key controlling access by the user system to the program related element and an ~~associated~~ access definition including a period of use definition defining a period in which the user system may access the program related element,

in the user system,

storing the access definition including the period of use definition   ◆■
defining a period in which the user system may access the program related element,   ◆■

reading the access definition and generating a request for access   ◆■
to the program related element only during a period defined by the period of use   ◆■
definition,   ◆■

in the host facility,

responding to a request for access to the program related element
~~and to the associated access definition~~ by communicating the authorization key ~~and at~~   ◆■
~~least parts of~~ to the ~~associated access definition to the user system when requirements~~   ◆■
~~of the associated access definition are met~~ user system, and   ◆■

in the user system,

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responding to the authorization key ~~and the parts of the associated~~ ~~use definition for~~ by allowing the user system access to the program related element ⟵ ~~in conformance with the parts of the associated use definition~~.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein:

the program related element is resident in the user system.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

loading the program related element into the user system from a host system.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

transmitting the program related element into the user system from a second user system.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein:

the program related element is a program,

the authorization key is an unlocking key, and

the user system is responsive to the unlocking key for permitting access to the program related element.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein: ⟵

the authorization key is a decryption key,

the program related element is encrypted, and

the user system responsive to the decryption key to decrypt the program related element to provide the decrypted program related element to the user system.

17. (ORIGINAL) The communication system of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

generating and encrypting the program related element in a second user system,

generating and storing an authorization key and associated access definition in the host facility in association with the generation and encryption of the program related element, and

transmitting the program related element to the user system.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein:

the access definition includes at least one of a start date/time and an end date/time defining a period in which access to the program related element is permitted.

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19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein:

the access definition includes at least one user period defining at least one corresponding access period during which the user system may access the program related element and wherein the user system is responsive to an access period for terminating access to the program related element at the expiration of the access period.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein:

the access definition includes conditions to be satisfied before the user system may access the program related element.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication system for transmitting at least one of the program, the data, and a combination of the program and data from a host facility to a communication terminal device, comprising:

an input device for inputting instructions to execute the program or to process the data;

storage means for storing the program, the data, or a combination of the program and data;

executing means for executing the program stored in said storage means or executing data processing by using the data stored in said storage means, in accordance with instructions from said input device;

~~clock means for keeping a~~ clock means for ~~predetermined~~ tracking a time ~~period after said executing means is allowed~~ of occurrence of instructions to execute the program ~~stored in said storage means or~~ or process the data;

an access controller responsive to ~~execute data processing by using the data stored~~ a period of use definition defining a period in ~~said storage~~ which the executing means ~~[[,]]~~ is allowed to execute the program or process the data and

~~interference means for interfering with execution of said executing means when said~~ to the clock means ~~counts said predetermined time~~ for generating a request to a host facility for an authorization key only during the period ~~[[,]]~~ in which the executing means is allowed to execute the program or process the data to access the program,

in a host facility,

a memory for storing

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an authorization key controlling access by the user system

to the program related element, wherein

the host facility is responsive to the request for an authorization key

to provide the authorization key to the access controller, and wherein

the access controller is responsive to the authorization key for granting

access to execute the program or process the data, and

interfering with execution of the program and processing of the data

when the authorization key is not provided from the host facility.

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